



The PROFILE

August 2006

Matt Taylor to Discuss Dental Pathology as a Cultural Marker

Matt Taylor, Director of the Texas Dental Anthropology Project at the Texas Archeological Research Lab will give a presentation on dental pathology in Galveston area cemeteries at the August 11 meeting. The goal of this ambitious project is to study the heritable dental traits of early Texas populations as a way to reconstruct their genetic interactions. Patterns of dental wear and disease help differentiate between Karankawa and Akokisa remains. In addition, this state-wide survey of the dental morphology of prehistoric populations will help reconstruct the genetic links between Texas and the rest of North America.

A doctoral candidate at the University at Albany, SUNY, Mr. Taylor received his B.A. from Angelo State University, and M.A. from Texas Tech University.

Mr. Taylor's interest in archeology began early. As a child he noticed archeological sites that existed on his grandparent's ranch in Lampasas County and wanted to find out more about the people who left them. While drawn to archeology, during his university studies Mr. Taylor gravitated to physical anthropology, finding it more interesting to study the people who made the artifacts than the artifacts themselves.

This inquisitiveness has taken Mr. Taylor across the United States working on NAGPRA and forensic issues for the Texas Archeological Research Lab, Texas Tech University, The University at Albany, and the New York State Museum. His fieldwork has spanned areas in Texas, Louisiana, and New York. Mr. Taylor's research interests are varied and include bioarcheology, dental anthropology, and forensic anthropology, with geographic emphasis in Texas and the northeastern United States.

As always, the August 11 meeting will be held in Anderson Hall on the quadrangle of the University of St. Thomas, at 7:30pm. For a detailed map, visit the HAS web site at www.houstonarcheology.org.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2006 PROGRAM: To be announced. **Annual Business Meeting** will be conducted at the September 8 meeting, including election of officers and Board members.

Anyone wishing to deliver a presentation at a future meeting should contact Michael Bailey at m Bailey@beamans.com.

Health and Safety on Archeological Field Digs

Field Leader to diggers before work begins: Firstly folks, make sure your pencils are blunt. And, no overzealous digging or artifact identification. Next, is everyone wearing their protective equipment in the event of cave-ins, tripping, amoebic dysentery, rabies or other parasitic/miscellaneous infections? And, will any digger who may or may not have soilphobia, hydrophobia, ultravioletphobia, solarpheobia or sweatophobia please stay out of the trenches. All set? Let's dig! -Fred Kelly



About Fieldwork

Several years ago when I was attending a meeting of the Houston Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), an audience member asked the president, "What is the difference between the Houston AIA and the Houston Archeological Society?"

The AIA president replied, "Oh, HAS – they're the people who *dig*. We don't dig."

There was more explanation, of course, but those two sentences pretty much sum up the one thing that makes our Society different from other archeology interest groups. Like everyone else, we sponsor monthly lectures, we publish a newsletter and a journal, we promote education about archeology, etc., but we also conduct archeological fieldwork, and that sets us apart. Not all of our members are willing or able to participate in digs, but we do have a core group of avocational archeologists who enthusiastically turn out for fieldwork and participate in related lab sessions.

Lately, however, we have not conducted any digs of our own; it's been almost a year since there was any HAS-sponsored digging in the field. Instead, our members have participated in other area projects such as San Felipe de Austin, San Jacinto and Champs d'Asile. With cooler temperatures coming in a couple of months, many of you are getting restless to get busy on an HAS-sponsored excavation.

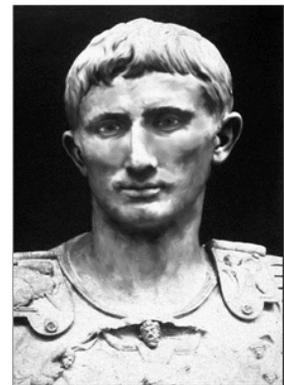
The Board is doing what we can to address your concerns. As you know, digging destroys an archeological site and should not be undertaken unless there is some good reason to do so; HAS requires that a set of research goals be written and approved before any trowels break the dirt. We are initiating inquiries around the region to see what opportunities are out there for us to take on an excavation. If you know of any landowners who need a responsible group like ours to perform fieldwork (for free), now is the time to speak up and let us know! -- *Linda Swift*

The Month of August

August was named in honor of the Roman Emperor Augustus (reigned 27 BC-14 AD) and is said to have been placed in the calendar where it is by Augustus because it is the month that his enemy, Cleopatra, died. This month the ancient Romans finished gathering -and storing their crops and honored the creative powers of the goddess, Diana, for their abundant harvest and the new crops to come next year. Diana had many titles including creator of the cultivated crops, protectress of women, goddess of the moon, and goddess of the wild animals and the hunt. The Romans celebrated

harvest rites and rituals this month, much as our modern day Thanksgiving is held later in November.

- *Fred Kelly*



Augustus, First Roman Emperor, 63 BCE – 14 CE



Last Chance to View the Royal Tombs of Ur

This amazing exhibit will be open at the Houston Museum of Natural Science through Sunday, August 13, 2006. Located in modern-day Iraq, this site was excavated in the 1920s. The exhibit includes over 400 rare and exquisite

Sumerian artifacts. For ticket information visit www.hmns.org.

HAS LIBRARY: Open on Friday, August 11, from 6:30pm to 7:20pm, 3907 Yoakum Blvd.

LABORATORY SCHEDULE: August Labs: Mondays, August 14 & 28 7-9 PM, Rice University, Sewall Hall, Room 103. **September Labs:** Mondays, September 11 and 25.

HOUSTON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES July 15, 2006

Linda Swift, HAS President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were 25 people in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAS lab on July 17th and 31st.

PROGRAM

HAS members who attended the Texas Archaeological field school in June told of their experience and showed slides.

BUSINESS MEETING

After the program there was a refreshment break followed by the business meeting with 15 people in attendance. The May HAS meeting minutes were approved.

Linda Swift and Tom Nuckols were thanked for providing refreshments.

Karen Acker gave the 2nd quarter treasurers report.

HAS has gained 4 new members.

Publicity Chairman Fred Kelly state that radio stations KPRC and KTRH have quit running HAS advertisements. The new HAS laptop computer and projector checkout guidelines are being drafted and will be finalized at the Board meeting this month.

Wanda Carter, Pat Aucoin and Roy Whitney will serve on the Audit Committee.

Phyllis Bradley, Charlotte Harrison and Muriel Walker will serve on the Nominating Committee. The slate of officers will be presented to the members in August; the election of officers will be in September and the new Board will take office in October.

The HAS has received a request to assist a group of Boy Scouts in their efforts to complete their Archaeology merit badge requirements by working at an archaeological site. Diane Baird volunteered to be the HAS liaison with the troop.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by Tom Nuckols, Secretary

HAS's Fred Kelly Publishes Literary tour de force

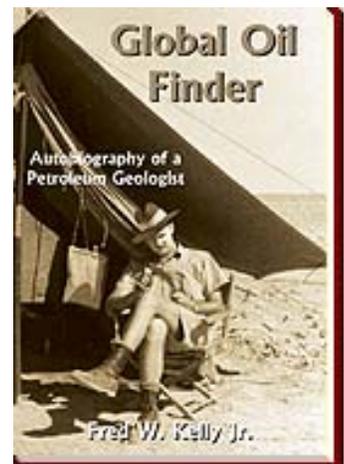
After 12 years of work, Fred Kelly's autobiography, *Global Oil Finder, Autobiography of a Petroleum Geologist* has made its literary debut, although Kelly jokes that it should probably be subtitled "More than you ever wanted to know about Fred Kelly."

Global Oil Finder spans Kelly's 38-year career in international oil exploration and captures his adventures across the globe, including the Valley of the Kings in Egypt, Mexico's "Well of Death", and the Ubangi tribal area of Central Africa.

AuthorHouse Publishing notes, "*Global Oil Finder* draws you into a world of exotic landscapes and adventures that could not be duplicated today. Always fresh, curious, and adventurous, Fred's journey opens a window into fascinating bits of Americana and also chronicles the swiftly changing face of the American oil industry as it expanded into foreign exploration in the 1950s."

Mr. Kelly elaborates, "I do have some stories to tell about the Great Depression, World War II on the home front, and my worldly adventures searching for oil!"

We've always known that HAS members are some of the most interesting folks around, and Fred's book proves it! Ask Fred Kelly for more information, or visit www.authorhouse.com to read a preview chapter.



77th Annual Texas Archeological Society Meeting

The annual meeting of the **Texas Archeological Society** will be held Friday, October 20 thru Sunday, October 22 at the San Angelo Inn and Convention Center, 441 Rio Concho, San Angelo. This year's Friday evening Public Forum features **Mr. Doug Boyd**, vice President of Prewitt and Associates, Inc. in Austin. His topic will be "**Tales of the Dead: Archeology of Forgotten Historic Cemeteries.**"

Saturday's banquet speaker will be **Mr. Elmer Kelton** who has authored over 40 novels, plus non fiction books spanning more than 50 years. Several of Mr. Kelton's books received the Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. The symposium on Saturday will offer 60 papers in addition to numerous poster presentations.

On Sunday, attendees have two tour options: a tour to Fort Concho or a tour to Paint Rock, or individuals can visit Ft. Chadbourne or the historic Miss Hattie's Bordello. Artifact identification and a career fair will follow the talk where interested individuals can meet with professionals representing archeological consulting firms, agencies and universities.

Headquarters will be at the San Angelo Inn that offers lovely views of the Concho River. Registration forms and a limited number of the most recent TAS Newsletter will be available at this month's meeting.

Conference information may be found at www.txarch.org. –Beth Aucoin and Pam Wheat

Please submit articles for publication to Sara Guillote, sguillote@hotmail.com
Submit articles no later than August 31 for the September issue.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ARCHEOLOGY IN THIS AREA, CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:

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The Profile

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